

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended in two respects. First, the claim now specifies that at least one of the pair of cylindrical rotating bodies is "formed by" a plurality of small rollers that form a roller group. Second, the "peripheral surface" language of the claim has been deleted.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the rubber coated cord group has made a circuit "around" the rotating cylindrical bodies, rather than "returning to the former cylindrical rotating body".

The dependencies of claims 8, 9, and 19-22 have been corrected.

Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to correct "groups" to "group".

Clarifying changes have also been made to claim 14.

An extraneous word has been deleted from claim 16.

Regarding the §112 rejections

It is believed that the foregoing amendments resolve the various rejections that were raised under §112.

Regarding the §103(a) rejections

The examiner's attention is directed to lines 11 and 12 of newly amended claim 1, which read:

"at least one of the pair of cylindrical rotating bodies is formed of a plurality of small rollers forming a roller group"

According to this language, the claimed apparatus must contain at least roller group, which is formed by multiple small rollers. The roller group also forms one of the cylindrical rotating bodies of the apparatus.

Thus, the claim does not simply specify that the apparatus contains multiple small rollers. The claim goes further than that, requiring that these small rollers together form another body, which is both cylindrical and rotating.

The examiner correctly points out that the primary reference (USP 2,759,521, Hall) fails to disclose the final limitation of applicants' claim 1, i.e., that "the axis direction of each of the small rollers of the cylindrical rotating body is disposed obliquely at a predefined angle from parallel with the axis direction of the adjacent small rollers".

However, applicants submit that Hall also fails to disclose any apparatus which contains small rollers that together form a cylindrical, rotating body, as is required in claim 1.

The examiner points to Hall's rollers 40 as corresponding to applicants' roller group. However, Hall's rollers are no more than individual rollers, each of which operate individually. They do not form a roller group of any kind. They do not form any sort of cylinder that is capable of rotating. Instead, only the individual rollers rotate. These individual rollers do not collectively form a "rotating cylindrical body" of any type.

Therefore, there are at least two significant differences between applicants' claims and Hall: the canting limitation of lines 12 and 13, and the requirement that one of the rotating cylinders is made up of multiple smaller rollers.

Applicants' see nothing in Hall or any of the secondary references that teaches or suggests an apparatus which includes, as one rotating cylindrical body, a roller group that is formed of multiple small rollers. Nothing in any of the references suggests any reason to include that type of cylindrical body.

Stewart (USP 3910808) does not describe any type of apparatus that contains at least two cylindrical rotating bodies, one of which is made up of a roller group of small rollers. Stewart's process appears to wind a plastic strip around only a single rotating body.

Mizutani (USP 3,919,026) is cited only for its teachings regarding hose materials. It does not describe an apparatus that contains at least two cylindrical rotating bodies, one of which is made up of a roller group of small rollers.

Petzetakis (US 4,033,808) is cited only for its teachings regarding a "push roller". Otherwise, Petzetakis' process bears little resemblance to either the present invention or to Hall's process. Petzetakis does not describe an apparatus that contains at least two cylindrical rotating bodies, one of which is made up of a roller group of small rollers.

Schlemmer (US 4,454,000) is cited only for its teachings regarding a slice roller pair, but otherwise bears little if any resemblance to Hall's process. Schlemmer does not describe an apparatus that contains at least two cylindrical rotating bodies, one of which is made up of a roller group of small rollers.

Because none of the cited references describes applicants' apparatus that contains at least two cylindrical rotating bodies, one of which is made up of a roller group of small rollers, there is no combination of any of them which leads to the present invention.

For these reasons, the various §103(a) rejections stated in paragraphs 6-9 of the office action are respectfully traversed.

A notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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